

Luxury Coach Services from IGI Airport to Amritsar

552. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that for plying inter-State luxury coach services from IGI Airport to Amritsar and *vice-versa*, the tender was awarded to the highest bidder last year overlooking the claim of lower bidders;

(b) whether it resulted in heavy revenue loss to Government, if so, the amount of loss thereof;

(c) what action Government have taken or propose to take against the guilty officials; and

(d) whether any action is contemplated to allow lower bidders to ply the coach services and stop the higher bidder from doing so?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) The Central Bureau of Investigation has registered a regular case in the matter on 15.1.2001 and are conducting investigations.

Flights of International Airlines to Hyderabad

553. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several international airlines like British Airways, Singapore Airlines and Emirates Airlines propose to operate flights to Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the reasons for not clearing the proposals by the Ministry; and

(c) by when the final decision would be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Emirates Airlines has been recently granted permission to operate international services to/from Hyderabad. The request of Singapore Airlines for Hyderabad as a point of call will be discussed during the next round of bilateral air services consultations. No request has been received from British Airways for operating

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RAJYA SABHA

services tofrom Hyderabad after it has been declared as international airport.

Introduction of State Airports for International Air Services

554. SHRI BRAHMA KUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of International Air Services were introduced from State Airports recently;

(b) if so, what is the action plan chalked out therefor; and

(c) the air routes selected for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) International air services are presently available from the following airports, which are not classified as international airports;

(i) Calicut (Kerala) to points in gulf (ii) Trichinapalli (Tamil Nadu) to Sharjah (iii) Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) to Sharjah (iv) Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) to Sharjah (v) Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) to Kathmandu (vi) Patna (Bihar) to Kathmandu.

Safety of Air Fields at Jammu and Srinagar

555. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether no steps have been taken to ensure the safety of air fields at Jammu and Srinagar as alleged by the Indian Commercial Pilots Association;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the reasons for declaring Jammu and Kashmir as no fly zone by the Indian Airlines Pilots Union w.e.f. 26th January, 2001?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The navigation/landings aids available at Jammu and Srinagar, including sterilisation of approach funnel, are sufficient for safe operation of flights.